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1 45939/VGG/H320

KERRIA JAPONICA PLANT NAMED 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'

5 CLASSIFICATION

The present invention relates to a new *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.] plant.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

10 The new plant has the varietal denomination 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.], which was discovered as a branch sport in a cultivated area of a controlled planting of *Kerria japonica* (unnamed, unpatented) in Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The varietal denomination of the new variety is 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

20 The genus *Kerria* is included in the family Rosaceae, which comprises about 100 genera and 2,000 species of herbs, shrubs and trees native mostly to China and Japan. *Kerria* comprises one species, *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC, native to the temperate regions of eastern Asia, which possesses desirable ornamental
25 characteristics.

Kerria japonica is a deciduous shrub with green leaves and glabrous branches. Leaves of the typical species are alternate, oval, long acuminate, serrated on the margins with pinnate venation. It generally has yellow flowers.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as a branch sport in a controlled planting of *Kerria japonica* (unnamed, not patented) and differs from its parent by white flecked variegated foliage,
35 ~~white and greyed-green striped~~ yellow flowers with lighter

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yellow and greyed-green variegation, and slightly larger leaf size. Asexual reproduction of the new variety by vegetative
5 cuttings, performed in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Vacaville, California have confirmed that the distinctive characteristics of the new variety are stable and transmitted to succeeding generations, and the new variety reproduces true to type.

10 COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

'FUBUKI NISHIKI' is distinguished from its parent and all other varieties of *Kerria japonica* of which I am aware by its white flecked variegated foliage, ~~white~~ yellow flowers with
15 lighter yellow and greyed-green ~~striped flowers~~ variegation and slightly larger leaf size. The parent plant has completely green foliage and solid yellow flowers.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

5 The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the new
cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this
character.

FIG. 1 illustrates the distinctive variegated foliage of
'FUBUKI NISHIKI'; and

10 FIG. 2 illustrates the flower of 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' has not been observed under all possible environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following observations, ~~and~~ descriptions and color readings are of 3-year-old plants, in 5-gallon nursery containers, grown in Vacaville, California and Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. In this description,
10 color references are to *The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart* (1995) and terminology used in the color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity, cultural and environmental conditions.

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CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC.
[*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.]
Parentage: Branch sport ~~from the species of~~ *Kerria japonica* (unnamed, not
20 patented)
Propagation: Stem cuttings

PLANT

25 Size: About 2 m tall[[;]] and about 3 m across at 3 years of age; 1-year-old plants measured about
30 cm tall and about 25 cm
across; and 2-year-old plants
30 measured 125 cm tall and about 2
m across

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New Shoots: Near 139C

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Texture/Substance: Thin, chartaceous

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Upper Surface: Glabrous with impressed veins,
 nearly bullate
5 Under Side: Glabrous to slightly pubescent
 with prominent veins

VARIEGATION PATTERN

10 Flecked, splashed, and mottled in a random pattern. Areas
of variegation are frequently long and narrow, parallel to the
side veins of the leaf. There are additional smaller areas of
variegation that show no consistent shape and are randomly
distributed across the leaf. The variegation typically covers
15 25% to 50% of the leaf surface. Although the pattern of
variegation is random, every leaf displays noticeable patterns
of variegation. Foliage holds the initial variegation from
emergence through the growing season.

Young Foliage

20 **Green Sections**

Upper Side: Near 143A
Under Side: Near 143B

Variegated Sections

25 Upper Side: Between 196C and 196D, and near
155B
Under Side: Near 196D

Mature Foliage

Green Sections

30 Upper Side: Near 143A
Under Side: Near 143B

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Variegated Sections

5 Upper Side: Between 196C and 196D, and near
155B

Under Side: Near 196D

Venation Pattern: Alternately pinnate depressed
above, raised beneath

10 Petiole

Size: Between about 0.5 to 1.5 cm

Coloration: Near 143A

Texture: Smooth

15 Internodes: Between about 1 to 8 cm

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5 (20°F to -10°F)

Vigor: Rapid growth rate

Pests/Diseases: No pest or disease problems
noted

20

INFLORESCENCE

Bloom Period

25 Outdoors: March to May

Greenhouse: Not observed in greenhouse
conditions

Flower: Rotate

30 Arrangement: Solitary, terminal on lateral
branchlets

Size: About 3.5 cm wide

Shape of Inflorescence: Solitary, terminal on lateral
branchlets

35 Fragrance: None noted

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Lastingness of
individual blooms:

Between 3 to 5 days

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Flower Petals

Typical Number:

About 5

Observed Number:

About 5

Shape:

Ovate

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Apex:

Retuse occasionally apiculate

Base:

Abruptly attenuate

Size:

About 16 mm long; about 7 mm
wide

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Margin:

Entire and smooth, often
undulate

Curvature:

Slightly inwardly cupped

Arrangement:

Rotate

20

Color

Background color:

Near ~~145B~~ 5B

Variegated
section:

25

Between 196C to 196D, with
~~occasional~~ some areas of light
yellow near 11B; along the
margins and occasional random
~~markings or stripes parallel to~~
~~the long axis of~~ speckling
elsewhere on the petal,
30 ~~occasional marginal variegation~~
petal

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Sepals

Shape:

Pointed

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Color

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Background color: Near 194A

5 Variegation
color: Near 155B

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Androecium

Stamens: Between about 30-40

10 Anther

Shape: Club shaped

Color: Near 11B

Pollen amount: Voluminous

15 Color: Near 11B

Gynoecium

Pistil count: About 5

Length: About 2 mm

20 Stigma Color: Near 11B

Style Color: Near 11B

Ovary Color: Near 11B

25 Fruit Type: Achene

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I CLAIM:

5 A new ~~plant~~ variety of *Kerria japonica* ~~of the variety~~ plant
substantially as shown and described.

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ABSTRACT

5 A new ~~plant~~ variety of *Kerria japonica* plant characterized
by white flecked variegated foliage, ~~white and greyed-green~~
striped yellow flowers with lighter yellow and greyed-green
variegation, and slightly larger leaf size.

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VGG/11b

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